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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19710 TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1997 • AV 23, 5757 • 22 RABIA THAN! 1418

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Oasis ascends the throne of pop
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Central Bank raises interest rates 0.7%

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Raising its key lending rates for the first time in 14 months, the Bank of Israel yesterday said it will lift the rate at which it lends to banks by 0.7 of a percentage point to 13.4 percent, effective Thursday.

The increase was above expectations and is likely to prompt declining share prices tomorrow, said analysts, who expected the central bank to lift rates 0.3 percent.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on an official visit to Tokyo, was upset over the decision, Channel 2 reported last night.

Chambers of Commerce president Danny Gillerman called the bank's decision "a slap in the face to the government and a blatant expression of no-confidence in its economic policy." Frenkel should resign, he asserted.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper said the rate hike would deepen the recession and increase unemployment, because it "shows a stick into the spokes of the government's economic policy."

This dooms the government's plans for a 5 percent growth rate, he added.

Contractors Association president Uri Dori predicted the rate hike would harm investment in the construction industry by making it harder to obtain credit.

Full report, Page 10

PM: Ross coming back Warns of Arafat's 'kiss of death'

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

TOKYO — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat may have given the Middle East peace process "the kiss of death" when he embraced Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned yesterday at the start of his working visit to Japan.

Netanyahu reiterated his commitment to the peace process, while at the same time asserting the PA has not met its obligations under the Oslo Accords.

Netanyahu said US envoy Dennis Ross intends to return to the Middle East to follow up on Palestinian promises to improve security ties with Israel.

"He [Ross] intends to return to check the extent of the fulfillment of Palestinian promises," Netanyahu said in remarks broadcast on Israeli Radio.

State Department spokesman James

Rubin responded by saying there are no immediate plans for Ross to return to the region. He also told reporters that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke with Netanyahu on Saturday, but has not yet decided when she will travel to the region.

Rubin said the visit would occur "very soon" and that prospects for its success would be aided if the Palestinian Authority provides Israel "additional information and cooperation" through the trilateral security apparatus established during Ross's trip earlier this month. Such a development would help shift the focus from security matters to "restoring the trust and confidence that's been so unfortunately lost," Rubin added.

Although Netanyahu has concentrated on economic issues and business opportunities in his talks with Japanese officials and industrialists, his public comments are often interspersed with political comments, especially with regard to the PA.

The prime minister confirmed that the military aspect of the Middle East situation came up in yesterday's meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Ryutaro Hashimoto.

"He is interested in seeing stability in the Middle East," Netanyahu said. "I told him that the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were a reaction to terrorism, not an act of punishment directed against the Palestinians."

One of the points stressed repeatedly by Netanyahu is that "peace and prosperity go together." At the same time, he stresses that peace and terrorism cannot coexist.

A senior Palestinian official said on Monday the PLO has told militant groups opposed to its peace deals with Israel that they must suspend violent attacks.

See ROSS, Page 2



PM Benjamin Netanyahu meets Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in Tokyo yesterday at the start of his four-day visit. (Reuters)



Rocky road to peace
 Palestinian men pose yesterday with a boulder placed by the IDF to enforce the closure of the territories near Bethlehem. Residents tore down part of a barrier set up by soldiers near the town. See story, Page 2. (AP)

'Merge Japanese production with Israeli ingenuity'

By JAY BUSHINSKY

TOKYO — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday called for a "merger" that would join Japan's manufacturing and marketing abilities with Israel's innovative high-tech industries, thus creating a "partnership" that would benefit both countries.

He noted that "speed and quality of innovation" — assets which Israel possesses in relative abundance — "are the best way to increase competitiveness, and the key to the 21st century."

Speaking at a packed meeting of the Keldanren Industrialists Association, Netanyahu urged his audience to look to Israel "for the outsourcing of research and development for your respective industries."

He also said he had delivered a message to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto from King Hussein and himself urging Japan to invest in a water purification and desalination project in Jordan.

"The region's population is growing geometrically, but the water supply is flat," the prime minister said.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Netanyahu began their first full day in Japan by calling on Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako at the royal palace. Their conversation, which was conducted in English, centered on the history and culture of Israel.

Next on Netanyahu's tight schedule was a meeting with Shoichiro Toyoda, one of Japan's leading industrialists and head of the Toyota company. Toyoda is also chairman of the economically influential Keldanren.

Netanyahu reminisced afterwards that the first jeep he drove in the IDF was made by Toyota, but well-informed Israeli officials did not confirm a report that a Toyota assembly plant will be erected near the Erez checkpoint to employ both Palestinians and Israelis.

Another recurrent theme in the Prime Minister's talks here is his desire to inaugurate direct El Al flights between Tel Aviv and Tokyo.

Netanyahu is anxious for them to start well in advance of the November 1998 economic conference due to take place in the context of the state's 50th anniversary.

Although Japan Air Lines has expressed no interest in launching a parallel service, Netanyahu believes the El Al link would not only bring a significant influx of Japanese tourists, but would also facilitate access to Israel by Japanese investors and prospective business partners.

Negotiations on the Tel Aviv-Tokyo air link are stalled on the security issue, particularly Israel's insistence on having its personnel involved in the pre-flight process, according to highly-placed sources.

The sources added that Japanese exporters want a bigger share of the Israeli market, and are complaining to the Prime Minister as well as to Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman about customs and other tariff barriers which they deem discriminatory in comparison with those imposed on their Western European competitors.

Budapest possible site for Israeli-Syrian talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday urged the Damascus regime to return to the negotiating table and praised it for helping wind down the latest escalation in Lebanon.

"The Syrians made an important contribution to this end," Netanyahu said in Tokyo, implying that Damascus was instrumental in discouraging the Iranian-backed Hizbullah from intensifying the sporadic hostilities in southern Lebanon.

"Israel and Syria worked to downplay the tension," he said at a packed news conference, adding that "peace will give Syria an opportunity to become more viable economically."

Israeli and Hungarian diplomats said yesterday they could neither confirm nor deny comments attributed to Foreign Ministry Director General Eitan Bentsur that Israel and Syria are considering holding a new round of peace talks in Budapest.

Bentsur was quoted by the Hungarian daily *Nepszabadsag* as saying he "cannot rule out that the Hungarian capital could be the venue for Syrian-Israeli consultations."

Bentsur, who was in Hungary over the weekend to prepare for a three-day official visit by Netanyahu on September 19, did not give further details.

An Israeli embassy spokeswoman said she could neither confirm nor deny that talks were planned.

A Hungarian foreign ministry spokesman said he had not received an official request to host talks from either Israel or Syria.

Yesterday, dozens of Israeli tanks and military vehicles took part in a training exercise in the central Golan Heights in full view of the Syrian army.

The force was part of the culminating exercise of the IDF's annual battalion and company commanders' course. Its commander, Brig-Gen. Y. said the exercise had no direct bearing on the Syrian moves.

See BUDAPEST, Page 2

Yemenite mother and child reunited after 49 years

Margalit Amosi, who lives in Petah Tikva, was told yesterday that genetic tests had determined that American citizen Tsila Levine is her biological daughter who went missing as a baby 49 years ago.

Amosi, like many Yemenite Jews who arrived in the late 1940s and early 1950s, had not known if her hospitalized baby had died or been adopted by childless Ashkenazi parents.

The news released the emotions which had been bottled up for nearly half a century, causing Levine and Amosi to burst into tears.

After waiting for the results of the tests for a week, Levine said: "Now we can cry and cry for joy."

"I feel like the lights have been turned on in my heart," Levine declared when attorney Rami Tsubari informed her of the test results from the Hebrew University, saying they were 99.9 percent conclusive.

"I've never stopped looking for her," Amosi said. "She was in my heart every day and every hour. Every Friday when I lit Shabbat candles, I remembered her."

"I feel blinded and really happy that I did the trip this time and got results," said Levine, who lives in the US and has returned here several times to find her biological parents.

"I am happy for Margalit, who had to go through all this hardship, and I also feel it as a mother."

"God gave me a gift," Amosi added. "I want to see my new grandchildren, two boys aged 23 and 25. I want to see them all, and her husband. I haven't slept for three nights... Now everything will be easier for me."

Amosi met with Levine several days ago and they waited together for the test results.

It was the culmination of three years of hard work by Tsubari to discover the circumstances of Levine's adoption.

He published a photograph of Levine as a baby, and the Amosi family saw the resemblance to the child it had lost and made contact.

The Amosi's baby, only several weeks old, disappeared in 1948 after she was hospitalized. They were told she was "missing."

See YEMENITE, Page 2

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To fly or not to fly?

As adversity plagues Mir, many question the safety of sending more US astronauts

By KATHY SAWYER

WASHINGTON — The orbiting Soviet space station has drifted for eight months uninhabited, out of control, silent, all its instruments dead. Without power, its dark interior has "frozen over like a peasant hut in winter." Iceicles sprout from pipes; frost covers the walls and instruments.

This is not some worst-case prediction of what awaits the troubled Mir if the current crew fails in a crucial repair job set for early Friday. This was the grim scene that actually greeted a pair of cosmonauts 200 miles above Earth on June 24, 1995.

In a feat that is legend among spacefliers but virtually unknown to the broader public, the two cosmonauts, Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Viktor Savinykh, managed an unprecedented manual docking of their smaller spacecraft with the abandoned, slowly tumbling, railroad-car-sized station, Salyut 7. Clad in fur-lined jumpsuits and extra socks to ward off frostbite, they spent days scrambling back and forth between the two craft, rigging life-support systems, fumbling with wiring, fixing burst pipes, thawing frozen supplies and, against all odds, gradually reviving the tomblike facility.

Back then, the achievement was lauded as an exhibition of courage and resilience. The cosmonauts had "snatched (the space station) back from the brink of death," Western

expert James Oberg said afterward. He was impressed, he added, by the Soviet demonstration of American-style "competence and flexibility." Today, by contrast, a continuing plague of adversity aboard Mir is widely interpreted as symbolic of the Russian space program's economic and political decline, in dramatic contrast with its flush glory days under the Soviet empire. People wonder why anyone wants to save such an old rattletrap.

Have circumstances changed to the point that what once was deemed courageous is now just reckless? That is one of the debates that has swirled around the Clinton administration's decision to push cautiously forward with the US-Russian partnership in orbit despite the high-visibility troubles on Mir. Members of Congress, opponents of human spaceflight and expert critics such as Oberg have questioned the safety, as well as the usefulness, of sending any more American astronauts to fly on Mir.

In the world of spaceflight, however, people see the current orbital drama as a harbinger of a future they must confront, given that the US is committed to beginning construction of an international space station in orbit with the Russians next year.

Technical problems are the inevitable result of aggressive experimentation or, in the vernacular of the "right stuff," pushing the edges of the envelope. Collision, fire, loss of breathable

air and a host of lesser "random failures" are to be avoided whenever possible on a spacecraft, they say. But they must train hard to deal with such occurrences.

On Mir, now, they see an unparalleled "learning opportunity." "Any major system is going to have failures," Jim Van Laak, deputy manager of NASA's US-Russian flight operations, said last week. Whether on space stations, or commercial aircraft, he said, several hours of maintenance are routinely spent for each hour of flight time. Almost a million hours of "touch labor" are invested on a space shuttle before each brief flight.

"What we have not gotten used to in this country — and NASA is as guilty as anyone else — is having to sustain (a spacecraft) on a continuing basis" in orbit, he said. All the maintenance of the planned US-led international space station will be done in orbit by astronauts and cosmonauts. "And you will see it on the evening news."

And we just need to get used to that. "If foul-ups and glitches were a valid measure all by themselves, the space-going prowess of the Soviets as Cold War adversaries could have been written off decades ago. Mir is the latest in a series of increasingly sophisticated space stations they have launched to orbit since 1971. The Soviet/Russian space program leads the planet not only in long-duration human spaceflight accomplishments, but also in experience coping with the attendant accidents, setbacks, discom-

forts and failures.

Gen. Thomas Stafford, a veteran Apollo astronaut who heads an independent oversight committee advising NASA on the US-Russian partnership, said, "These people have shown great resiliency over the years in their ability to patch things up and keep going." At around 3 a.m. EDT Friday morning, newly arrived Mir commander Anatoly Solov'yev — the world's most experienced space-walker — and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov are to start suiting up for the planned "internal space-walk," which should begin around 5 a.m. EDT, with American astronaut Michael Foale standing by in an attached descent spacecraft.

This is the first of several space-walks planned over the coming months to restore the crucial electrical power and repair other damage done when an unmanned Progress cargo vessel slammed into the station during a manual docking test on June 25, denting a solar panel and puncturing the new Spektr laboratory module. Officials recently reported that the Progress apparently also grazed the facility's core as well as another lab module, Kvant-1.

The collision occurred as the Russians were testing a new docking system that, a Russian space official said this week, they intend to adapt for use on the planned US-led international space station.

Russian officials have attributed the June crash to "human error" by either system developers on

the ground or crew in orbit. Solov'yev has used the same system successfully since his arrival at Mir last week.

Mir seems safe, Stafford said, but to keep the station productive as well, it is "crucial" that the crew restore some of its lost electrical power. They would then be able to accomplish perhaps 85 percent of the planned scientific research — even with Spektr out of commission.

Experts inside and outside NASA say the Russians' track record, their detailed planning and the fact that they have replaced the previous trouble-prone and exhausted Mir crew with a fresh, well-trained pair offers cause for optimism about the chances of success.

Friday's planned repair work aboard Mir is much less complex than, for example, the restoration of the Hubble Space Telescope, according to NASA spacewalk experts. It is "about one-quarter" as difficult as the recovery of Salyut 7, according to John Fabian, a former astronaut now a consultant on US-Russian cooperation.

For decades, with little fanfare, cosmonauts on space stations have been dealing not only with nuisances such as balky computers, sanitation problems, brown residue over their porches and a broken exercise machine, but an impressive list of crises at least as dramatic as the current one.

See MIR, Page 7

Corruption and smut in small-town America

By STEPHEN BRAUN

OAK GROVE, Ky. — The wooden shack set back on a black stretch of highway outside Fort Campbell sells Chinese food now. But in the days when off-duty soldiers and locals paraded through its back rooms, the New Life fitness center was a house of secrets. Most people here had heard the whispers about what went on inside, but no one could have imagined where all those secrets would lead.

The secrets are out now, coursing too quickly for most people in this military-base town of 3,000 to tell the real from the fanciful.

At times it seems as if every prominent man in Oak Grove ducked into the New Life Fitness and Massage Parlor for flings with hostesses who went by such racy monikers as "Harley" and "Mercedes." It Town & Country was stunning enough when Tammy Papler, the convicted madam who called herself Mercedes, raged during a Town Council meeting in mid-July that Oak Grove's police and leaders took bribes, botched an unsolved murder case and sought sexual favors at her now-shuttered massage parlor. "This town is crooked," she barked, "and I've got the paperwork to prove it!" Papler's allegations were quickly disputed by Oak Grove officials.

Michael Burman, the city attorney, questioned her reliability and noted her 1994 arrest for promoting prostitution. "Her allegations shift faster than we can keep up with," Burman said.

Then Harley came forward to second Papler's allegations — and Oak Grove's somnolent civic affairs took on the frenzied air of a backwoods cockfight. Harley named out to be Patty Belew, 26, a town councilwoman who admitted she had turned tricks for two years at the massage parlor before marrying into one of the community's oldest and largest clans.

Insistent that "the truth has to come out," Belew has lent Papler's corruption charges enough credibility to help spur the FBI and the Kentucky State Police to investigate Oak Grove's government.

But Belew fears her "one moment of standing up" could jeopardize her council seat, her job as a mobile home saleswoman and the affection of her family.

"I feel like that lady in 'Harper Valley P.T.A.," a weary-eyed Belew said, recalling the 1960s country-song heroine who took on her entire town and won her daughter's admiration by defiantly exposing its pious hypocrites. "I'm just afraid it ain't going to end that way."

That it might not is a reflection of the hard reality of life in American military base towns. Most bases have a tawdry strip nearby where young soldiers can ease their boredom. But when base towns transform into robust communities, depending less on bonky-tonk sections for jobs and tax revenue, the adult businesses that prosper there are not so easily uprooted.

Only "a clean sweep" by outside authorities, suggested Hopkinsville Community College history Prof. William T. Turner, a scholar of the area's past, might "get people around here to even start thinking seriously about whether these places are worth keeping in business. The sad thing is they're part of our landscape."

That landscape has been fertile territory for Papler, 29, ever since she opened her massage parlor there in 1991. Two years after police raids forced her to close down New Life in 1994, she opened a video store next door.

Belew's decision to leave the strip in 1994 was a stroke of good fortune. Just weeks after she left, two massage parlor hostesses were found dead, their throats slashed, in one of New Life's back rooms.

Soon afterward, Christian County sheriff's deputies raided the parlor and shut it down.

Without any past arrests, Belew was able to land a respectable job. She formed a new family out of the shards of a failed first marriage. And in 1996, she was elected town councilwoman.

It was not until the night of the council meeting on July 15 that Belew felt the facade of her new life start to rip away. When she drove up to the red brick building that serves as Oak Grove's City Hall and Utility Office, she was stunned to see her old bosses, Papler and her husband, Ronnie, waiting in a car.

"What are you doing here?" Belew whispered.

"I'm fixing to go in there and end this," Papler said.

It had been nearly three years since they had seen each other.

While Belew had eased her way into respectability, Papler



was trying to hold onto the middle-class world she made in the ranch house on the Tennessee line she shared with Ronnie and two sons.

The Paplers had plea-bargained after their arrests, serving two years probation. Now Tammy Papler was back on the strip, owner of Cherry Video, a film store renting Disney classics along with an ample inventory of porno flicks.

Oak Grove officials informed her that her store was subject to a new law imposing \$5,000 annual fees on X-rated firms — a steep rise from typical \$50 license fees.

Papler was outraged, a skepticism shared by some observers. "Oak Grove is making money on these places when they should be trying to shut them down," said historian Turner, who is also on the board of the area's largest bank.

Striding into the hall where Belew sat nervously with Oak Grove officials, Papler rose as soon as the call came for the "citizens' portion." Police and officials had employed New Life's prostitutes, she charged. Cops missed evidence left from the unsolved 1994 murders.

One officer, Papler said, "failed a lie detector test" and was a murder suspect (a charge later verified by Christian County's sheriff's Maj. Billy Gloyd, who also noted the Paplers had not been ruled out as suspects). And Papler claimed she was forced to pay money to police and buy them equipment.

"This town ain't got nothing but a bunch of hypocrites," she yelled before being hustled out of the meeting room.

Papler's charges might have been dismissed as pure vengeance if Patty Belew had not come to her defense. Belew says she had little choice. As the July 15 council meeting erupted into chaos, Papler yelled: "If y'all don't believe me, there's other people, OK?" Then she named Belew, saying: "She's one of the most honest people that I know, OK?"

Papler's veiled reference shook Belew. It was only a matter of time before her past became common knowledge to everyone in town. She consulted with Oak Grove officials. But when Burman recommended that she might consider resigning from the council to avoid embarrassment, Belew bridled.

"It was time to stand up," she said. "I wasn't going to be left the only bad person up there." Two days after the meeting, Belew drove to Papler's Tennessee house and defiantly told reporters gathered there that she had worked for two years as a prostitute at Papler's massage parlor.

Belew had joined New Life in November 1991 after answering a classified ad. A retired soldier's daughter, she had no savings and two young daughters from a failed marriage. "I figured I'd stay just a few weeks, loog enough to save some money and get a regular job," she says now. "But I started making excuses to myself. The money was too easy." She quit several times, but always returned. Making \$1,500 a week, she was beginning to build a nest egg.

Most of the men she coupled with were "Screaming Eagle" paratrooper trainees from the 101st Airborne across the highway. But there were familiar faces from around town. Some, Belew says, were prominent citizens. Some, Belew says, were local law officers.

She started dating Joe Belew, a member of an old family with deep lines into the area's construction and mobile home business. When marriage became a prospect, she worked up the courage to tell him. Joe felt blindsided, but they stayed together.

After their wedding, Belew fashioned a new life in Oak Grove.

Now there is talk of a recall movement. Her boss put her on a forced sabbatical, and Belew fears that she will not be allowed back.

Still, from the scores of callers who have rung her up late into the night with new tips about town corruption, Belew figures she has some friends left.

"See?" she said, pointing at a passing car that honked in support as she stopped to chat with Papler near her video store. At a nearby bank branch, teller Christine Neiman hailed Belew and Papler as "good women. There's crooked people in every town. Sometimes you need people who've seen it close up to stan the ball rolling."

(Los Angeles Times)

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Blood and oil

GWYNNE DYER

It's been a good month for peace in the Caucasus...

On August 14, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov...

Four days later, in Moscow, President Aslan Maskhadov...

The 1994 ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan...

The Caspian and Karakum basins are going to be the major source of world energy...

All the newly oil-rich countries around the Caspian Sea...

The oil drives the peacemaking

Similarly, the first oil from Kazakhstan's Tengiz field...

Now, the simplest way to avoid Russia is to send the new Caspian oil...

The best non-Russian alternative from the US point of view...

Washington's preferred route involves a big new pipeline through Georgia...

The compromise they reached in 1995 was to build a second pipeline straight west across Georgia...

THERE will be peace in the Caucasus for the moment...

The writer is a London-based independent journalist.

Fear



Where Barak erred

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

There is no doubt the televised scenes of sacked employees...

Barak sadly lacks the human touch

clear: if he has to choose between loyalty to his party...

Where Barak erred

Where Barak erred - and there is no question that he has screwed up royally...

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

front Netanyahu if he took any action likely to trigger a full confrontation...

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

The governments of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat...

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

Neither side is capable of winning - or, at least, unable to afford the very high cost of a total victory.

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

From the Palestinian Authority's standpoint, no amount of violence can force Israel to withdraw...

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

For Israel, retaking the PA-ruled lands is not feasible, but facing higher levels of terrorist violence is unacceptable.

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

These differences will not be resolved easily. But eliminating parts of the gap are far easier.

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

Given these realities, Israeli and Palestinian strategy is quite clear. As eager as the two sides are to

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

There are still wide disagreements - though far narrower than in the past - between Israel and the Palestinians.

Only when both sides are convinced everything possible will Israel and the Palestinians move forward

ANYWAY, nice that we've been noticed.

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Abolish the religious councils

The refusal of Ministers Eli Suissa and Ze'evulun Hammer to carry out a High Court order to confirm the appointment of a Reform Jew...

When John F. Kennedy was running for president, many Americans were concerned that the first Catholic president would be beholden to the pope...

Israel certainly does not share the American tradition of separation of church and state. On the contrary, the integration of religion and state in Israel is almost as central to the state's founding as their separation...

As the nation's 50th birthday approaches, the question of what it means for Israel to be, according to its Declaration of Independence, a "Jewish state" is far from settled.

Hammer and Suissa have every right to resign from the government; they have no right to allow their personal views - religious or otherwise - to override the rule of law.

Hammer and Suissa could have approved the appointment of Reform Jew Joyce Brenner to the Netanyahu Religious Council...

In this case, the High Court did not have to go out on a limb to affirm the right of a Reform Jew to sit on a religious council...

In fact, religious councils are all about politics. According to a law that should be changed, each regional council is matched by a religious council of equal size...

The religious councils have become a bastion of political patronage for two of the religious parties, Shas and the NRP. The law currently provides that 45 percent of the council members are appointed by the Religious Affairs Ministry...

Leaders from different parts of the political spectrum, such as Likud MK Meir Sheetrit and United Torah Judaism MK Avraham Ravitz, have called for eliminating the religious councils outright.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEMOCRACY AT WORK

Sir - I was appalled to read Abba Eban's op-ed piece (August 15). While it is possible to disagree on the nature of democracy...

legislative and executive responsibility. Eban cites the African dictatorships that are based on independent executives...

Instead of the US Constitutional Convention "agonizing years" over the issue of executive responsibility, it started on May 25, 1787 and concluded on September 17, 1787...

Eban suggests that there are tainted appointments in this administration, while ignoring that most of these charges have been based on unsubstantiated slander.

It was a forgone conclusion that an elected chief executive would serve with minimum interference by the legislative branch.

Eban calls for the MKs to supersede a democratically elected prime minister. But just who did Alex Goldfarb represent when he voted to continue in office the unpopular Rabin government?

MODEL OF PLURALISTIC EXPRESSION

Sir - We are hard-pressed to begin rebutting Jonathan Rosenblum's preposterous misrepresentation of Women of the Wall.

at the top of their lungs" were most certainly not from our group. This is never our practice.

The women Mr. Rosenblum claims to have seen "leaning... behind the men's section, singing

to it on so many levels."

interests of other people, who do Sofa Landver, or Adisu Massale represent? They represent the lost dreams of the Labor Party.

Eban says that there is an "intolerable" number of democratically elected parties in the Knesset. This is according to his undemocratic tastes.

The present system does have problems. The Knesset should concern itself with legislation, oversight, review of treaties, and budgets, and not be able to interfere with the executive except for criminal impeachment.

PINCHAS RICHAHD WIMBERLY Jerusalem.

we expected in Gibraltar where the mole had been heavily barricaded. Machine-gun posts had been established as strategic points to prevent any contact with the detainees.

Neither side is capable of winning - or, at least, unable to afford the very high cost of a total victory.

From the Palestinian Authority's standpoint, no amount of violence can force Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip or accept a Palestinian state.

For Israel, retaking the PA-ruled lands is not feasible, but facing higher levels of terrorist violence is unacceptable.

These differences will not be resolved easily. But eliminating parts of the gap are far easier.

Given these realities, Israeli and Palestinian strategy is quite clear. As eager as the two sides are to

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On August 26, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that 40,000 German Jews who settled in Palestine by the end of May 1937, no fewer than 30,000 had entered since 1933 without any means of support.

ments for they were unable to renew their German passports.

50 years ago: On August 26, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the three "floating cages" carrying the 4,400 Exodus 1947 "illegal" immigrants to Palestine

Alexander Zvielli

BOOK REVIEW



Where have all the towering matriarchs gone? Why are contemporary women such fools by comparison? If Erica Jong knows, she isn't telling. (Erwin Schenkelsch)

Fear of failing

By KAREN KARBO

INVENTING MEMORY: A Novel of Mothers and Daughters by Erica Jong. New York: HarperCollins. 305 pp. \$25.

In Erica Jong's affable new multigenerational novel, Sarah Solomon Levitsky informs her own girl, Salome, of the truth about mothers and daughters: "Daughters grow up and beat their fists against the breast that suckled them. The more they sting, the more they beat."

It's one of life's enduring truths: Boys attend sporting events where they brandish hand-painted signs that say "Hi, Mom!" while daughters just roll their eyes and despise you.

The satisfying conceit of *Inventing Memory* is that the novel is a compilation of diary entries, letters, newspaper articles and oral history transcriptions assembled by the youngest female Levitsky, a historian named Sara, who discovers the women in her family through a trove of documents stashed in a vault in New York.

The matriarch, Sara's great-grandmother, is Sarah Solomon, who gains passage to America in 1905 only because her twin brother, who has already bought the precious steamer ticket, is murdered by Cossacks before he can get away. On the journey to Ellis Island, Sarah falls in love with an asthmatic upper-class WASP, Sim Coppley, who has developed a fascination with "the Hebrews."

Their shipboard romance initially goes nowhere, and after Sarah arrives in New York she is absorbed into life on the Lower East Side, where Lev Levitsky hires her as a "gnosi painter" at his art studio. Over time, though, she becomes reacquainted with Sim, who arranges for Sarah to paint portraits of the aristocratic set. Sarah moves between Levitsky, her mentor, and Sim, her lover — between the anarchists and high society.

This is rich material, brimming with trenchant observations about the eternal man-woman thing.

The eight-page New York Times Weekly Review including US and world news and views, business, arts and crossword distributed free with THE JERUSALEM POST every Monday

There are also some luscious secondary characters, like the Irish picture fakers Filet and Cooney, who insist on pronouncing their names as if they were French.

IF THERE is a disappointment in *Inventing Memory* it is that each subsequent generation of Levitsky women is less and less vital; they are like faces of faces of faces. Sara's daughter, Salome, a flapper who makes the pilgrimage to Paris in the late Twenties to become an avant-garde writer, has intermittent bouts of genius and snitpah, and her daughter, the ethereal Sally Sky,

If there is a disappointment in *Inventing Memory* it is that each subsequent generation of Levitsky women is less and less vital; they are like faces of faces of faces.

whom we're meant to envision as a Sixties female rock icon, is treacherous in a way that is depressingly familiar. The historian Sara may have inherited some of the meek of her namesake, but her story is just beginning when the book ends.

In fairness to Jong, this may be exactly her point. Our grandmothers and great-grandmothers, unliberated women whose lives were

fashioned by years of compromise, nevertheless possessed an unremittent toughness and verve that too many of us seem to lack. Sarah Solomon, who through the course of the novel grows very old and very rich, articulates the problem: "Nothing's too good for them. Interest rates they worry about — and development deals and final cut. They collect first editions, Georgian silver, polo ponies, contemporary art. They accumulate heavy things that cannot be moved in a program. This is a measure of how secure they feel. They do not expect that the Jews will be trapped in Benedict Canyon as in the Warsaw ghetto... They are complacent, their troubles are psychological."

Where have all the towering matriarchs gone? Why are contemporary women such fools by comparison? If Jong knows, she isn't telling. But she has some advice, delivered in the form of another letter, this one from Salome to her own daughter, the drippy Sally: "If you are ever in a bad moment in your life and you feel that you cannot go on, remember that you are the daughter of a woman who was the daughter of a woman who believed that strength came from accepting the contradictions of life rather than pretending life had no contradictions."

Not an answer, but a bit of Mom's advice is often just as good. (New York Times)

Karen Karbo's most recent book is a memoir, *Big Girl in the Middle*, written with Gabrielle Reece.

US students warned of rape-drug threat

Amid an alarming rise in the use of so-called "rape drugs," Attorney General Janet Reno recently helped launch a national effort to warn college students of the dangers of two powerful substances that sexual predators use to knock out their victims before attacking them.

Appearing at the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center in California, Reno outlined a campaign to flood college campuses with posters and other written information explaining the dangers of the drugs — Rohypnol and GHB — and to air public service announcements on NBC this fall.

A few years ago the drugs were practically unknown. Now, about seven women a month report to the Santa Monica center alone that they have been drugged and sexually assaulted, said Gail Abarbanel, the center's director.

The spread of the rape drugs, Reno said, reverses the trauma most rape victims suffer. Often, they are unable to forget how they suffered at the hands of a rapist. In rape drug cases, they

are unable to remember. "It's time for everyone in America to wake up to the threat," Reno said.

Reno's appearance underscored the breadth of a problem that is frustrating police, hospitals and rape victims. The two drugs — both odorless, nearly tasteless and potentially lethal — have become

worry about a victim's screams attracting attention." Just as the drugs immobilize rape victims, they also tend to paralyze investigations of sex crimes. Often, victims who have been knocked out with rape drugs wake up unsure of what happened. They may dismiss the assault without reporting it.

"These drugs make it very easy for rapists to commit their crimes. The rapist doesn't have to use physical force."

features at parties and clubs in recent years. But many investigators and laboratories still are struggling to understand, trace, and prosecute crimes involving their use.

"These drugs make it very easy for rapists to commit their crimes," Abarbanel said. "The rapist doesn't have to use physical force. He doesn't have to use restraints. He doesn't even have to threaten harm to subdue the victim, and he doesn't have to

Rather than hesitate, victims must report the crime and seek medical treatment immediately. Abarbanel said because the drugs can leave the victims within hours. Even then, victims may wind up dealing with doctors or investigators unfamiliar with the drugs.

As part of the campaign launched by Reno, the rape treatment center is distributing posters, flyers, even bookmarks to colleges in 32 states in time for fall semester. That material offers tips on

how to avoid being drugged and how to respond if a sexual assault is suspected.

But for women like Leilani, 20, it is already too late. As a sophomore returning to a local college last fall, Leilani was invited to a frat party — a place where she hoped to catch up with friends after having spent the summer at home. Not long after she arrived, a young man offered her a drink. She drank it — and blanked out almost instantly.

When she awoke, it was morning. Her pants were unzipped. She had been sexually assaulted. She reported the crime immediately, but university investigators did not collect physical evidence. Her case was never prosecuted.

Asked whether the new campaign would affect college students, Leilani said, "I don't know if I would've paid attention. But seeing something like that would have helped me know where to go for treatment." She added that she believes the drugs are "prevalent" on college campuses. "I know it's out there," she said. "I know it's a danger." (AP)

Not Private Benjamin

Yulia Belikova will make history twice this month at Virginia Military Institute. Besides being one of the 32 freshman women whose enrollment at VMI will end the college's 158-year male-only policy, she will also be the school's first Russian student.

After spending six months as an exchange student at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington last year, she returned to her hometown of Krasnodar, a Russian city of 650,000 people, where she lived in a one-bedroom apartment with her parents and two brothers. In the spring, she took English and French courses at Kuban State University.

Then she got an eye-popping letter from VMI: an offer of a full academic scholarship plus alumni assistance for travel between Lexington and Krasnodar. "I was so happy, so happy," she said.

After attending the American high school, Belikova, 18, realized that attending college in America was an impossible dream, given her family's annual income of \$2,500. But VMI, which had obtained her name and address because she once expressed interest in attending a military college on an English exam, invited her to apply. In October, she did. In April, a second letter arrived, congratulating her on her "appointment to the Institute."

Her appointment once had been just as unimaginable for VMI as for Belikova. In 1990, the Justice Department sued VMI, challenging its all-male admission policy. For six years, the military school fiercely resisted coeducation, claiming that the presence of women would fundamentally change VMI's character of harsh discipline and spartan living conditions. But in June 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the school's admission policy was unconstitutional.

Belikova will be one of two foreign women at the school; the other student is from Taiwan. "She was an outstanding applicant," said Col. N. Michael Bissell, who has directed the school's preparations for accommodating women. "I told her that she has a big role to be the recruiter for Russia so we can continue this lineage and get more people to come here."



Jen Jolin (center), one of 32 females enrolled at the Virginia Military Institute, is yelled at by a cadet during the school's "rat line" training. This year marked the end of the college's 158-year male-only policy. (AP)

Belikova intends to major in international relations, and she says she would like to work as a scientific translator after graduation — the career she was pursuing at Kuban State. Like many of the incoming women, Belikova is

reluctant to discuss the Rat Line — VMI's tough physical and emotional testing of its freshmen — fearing that comments she makes will draw the attention of upperclassmen who enforce the line. "This is a new experience and it is

something very interesting," she said. "I know it's going to be difficult but I will try."

Similarly, she dismisses queries about buzz-cutting her fine blonde hair on the day she enrolls. "It will grow again," she said. (AP)

Israel's own agony aunt has the answers

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August 1996 - August 1997

KLA-Tencor to expand Israel

KLA-Tencor Corp. will expand its activities in Israel, hiring an additional 25 employees (mostly engineers) and adding another 1,200 square meters to its Migdal Ha'Emek factory. KLA-Tencor management and process monitoring systems are used in the manufacture of semiconductors. The company's local subsidiary currently employs 130 people. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Bank of Israel raises rates by 0.7%

By FELICE MARANZ

The Bank of Israel announced yesterday it will raise interest rates by 0.7 percentage point to 13.4 percent, effective Thursday. It was the first time in 14 months the central bank lifted the rate at which it lends to banks.

The increase was above expectations and is likely to prompt declining share prices, said analysts, who expected the central bank to lift rates by 0.3 percentage point.

"It was a bad decision - what's changed here in two months? There's no justification for lowering rates 1.2 percentage points and then raising them 0.7 percentage point two months later," said Zvi Hoffman, manager of mutual funds at Meitav Ltd., a

Tel Aviv investment firm. "The stock market will drop tomorrow."

The Bank of Israel cut its benchmark interest rate 1.2 percentage points to 12.7 in June, after the government announced economic plans including a wider trading range for the shekel and a budget cut.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's Maof Index of 25 issues closed down 1.18% at 297.43 points before the central bank announced the new interest rates.

The decision to raise rates came amid figures pointing to an increase in inflation, the central bank said in a statement, including "increases in recent months and in expectations for the future."

July's consumer price index increase of 1% brought annual projected inflation to

10.5%, higher than the government's target of 7-10% for the year. And Israel's money supply rose 5.4 percent in July from June, its biggest increase in three years.

At the same time, growing unemployment and a slowdown in the economy had led to expectations the central bank would not raise rates as much as it said it will.

The central bank acknowledged slower growth in its statement, saying it "enables the Bank of Israel to act to achieve the inflation goal with lower interest rates than those required given the amount of demand in the economy."

The rate of unemployment rose to 7.6% in the second quarter, the highest rate in three years, while gross domestic product in the second quarter grew at an annual rate

of 1.6%, lagging behind the government's recently reduced forecast.

Last month, the Finance Ministry cut the country's projected growth in 1997 to 2.5% from an earlier estimate of 4%.

Higher rates hurt companies, which pay more for expansion, cutting into profits. Higher rates also tend to attract investors out of equities and into fixed-income investments and bank deposits.

That can boost demand for the shekel and strengthen the currency against foreign currencies. This in turn can hurt exporters because their products become more expensive overseas, as they pay expenses in shekels and earn revenue in weaker foreign currency.

(Bloomberg)



Talk of the trade

Two traders have a discussion at the Frankfurt bourse yesterday, the 30-share DAX index ended the session down 14.22 points at 4,079.21 points after the market tried to rally following Friday's nearly four percent drop.

(Reuters)

2nd quarter housing starts down 21%

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The number of housing starts dropped by 21 percent during the first half of the year in comparison with last year's second half, the Census Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

In all, the January-June period saw 22,270 housing starts as opposed to 28,350 during the previous half, and 24,520 during the first six months of 1996.

In recent months developers, economists and contractors have been debating the depth of the slowdown in the real-estate market. Analysts said that yesterday's data leave unanswered the question of whether the market, which boomed during the decade's first half in response to the mass immigration from the former Soviet Union, has already bottomed out.

"The government gave more money to building in the public sector in the second quarter of this year compared to last year," said Neumann. In the April-June period, the number of housing starts rose to 11,600 from 10,670 in the same period last year.

In the first six months of the year, housing starts dropped by 9% to 22,270, compared to 24,520 in the same six-month period last year, the CBS reported.

In the second half of 1996, housing starts totalled 28,350.

In the January-to-June period, the private sector began building 14,720 new homes, while the public sector started 7,550 units.

In the first six months of the year, 25,490 new housing units - 17,270 in the private and 8,220 in the public sector - were completed. At the end of June, 88,700 housing units - 52,400 private and 36,300 public - were under construction, compared to 96,600 at the end of December and 93,900 at the end of June 1996.

In the first half of the year, building starts were concentrated on 4.6 million meters of land, compared to 5.1 million meters in the same period last year, a 10% drop.

Seventy-seven percent of all the land allocated for new building was designated for housing.

Florida settles tobacco lawsuit for \$11.3b.

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (Bloomberg) - The US tobacco industry will pay the state of Florida \$11.3 billion to settle a lawsuit seeking to recover money spent on treating sick smokers, the state said yesterday.

The industry will be required to pay \$200 million of the settlement by September 15 for an anti-smoking campaign, and \$1 billion within the first year of the agreement, the state said. Top tobacco executives gave depositions in Florida's lawsuit against the industry last Thursday and Friday.

The settlement of the Florida case gives the industry more time to win Congressional approval of its \$368.5 billion national settlement of litigation brought by states and smokers. Texas's lawsuit against the industry is scheduled to begin in late September, followed by Minnesota's lawsuit in January.

"Without question, it makes a national settlement easier," said tobacco industry analyst David

Adelman of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Discover, Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles announced the agreement in state circuit court in West Palm Beach yesterday morning.

President Bill Clinton is reviewing the national pact, and is expected to issue his opinion of it in September. His support is seen as crucial to gaining the support of Congressional Democrats. Florida is the second state to settle with the industry, joining Mississippi, which

in July announced it will receive about \$3.6 billion.

Both state settlements would be superseded by the proposed national agreement, which addresses not only state actions, but individual lawsuits as well. It includes marketing restrictions and stipulations for federal regulation of the industry.

Morgan Stanley's Adelman said the industry may use the Florida and Mississippi settlements as leverage against making further concessions on the national agree-

ment.

"The anxiety level should come down as the industry settles these high-risk cases," he said. "If I were an anti-tobacco lawmaker in another state, I wouldn't want the industry to be settling these cases. I would want their feet to be held to the fire, and I would want them to lose."

As part of the Florida pact, the industry will concede that nicotine is addictive and that cigarettes kill, the state said. The agreement will also require the industry to remove immediately any cigarette billboards within 1,000 feet of schools and to remove other cigarette billboards "within the next few months."

The industry also promised to remove cigarette vending machines from any place accessible to children and will take down tobacco advertising in sporting arenas and on public buses and trains.

Florida is seeking \$12.3 billion in its lawsuit. Industry spokesmen could not be reached for comment.

The shares of New York-based RJR, which makes Camel and Winston cigarettes, were unchanged Friday at 35 5/16 in New York. Philip Morris shares fell 7/16 to 44 5/16.

The Florida agreement, which was first reported by the Palm Beach Post this morning, comes after the chairman of RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. and Philip Morris Cos. last week conceded that smoking may have caused deadly diseases such as cancer. They made those statements during depositions in the Florida lawsuit.

On Friday, RJR Chairman Steven Goldstone said during a deposition smoking "plays a part" in causing cancer. That comment came a day after Philip Morris chairman Geoffrey Bible said nicotine is a drug "and that thousands of Americans 'might have' died from smoking-related diseases."

Tobacco industry analysts and investors said last week that they expect Florida and the tobacco companies to settle the lawsuit, pending the approval of the national settlement by Congress.

All of these securities having been sold, this advertisement appears as a matter of record only.

August 1997

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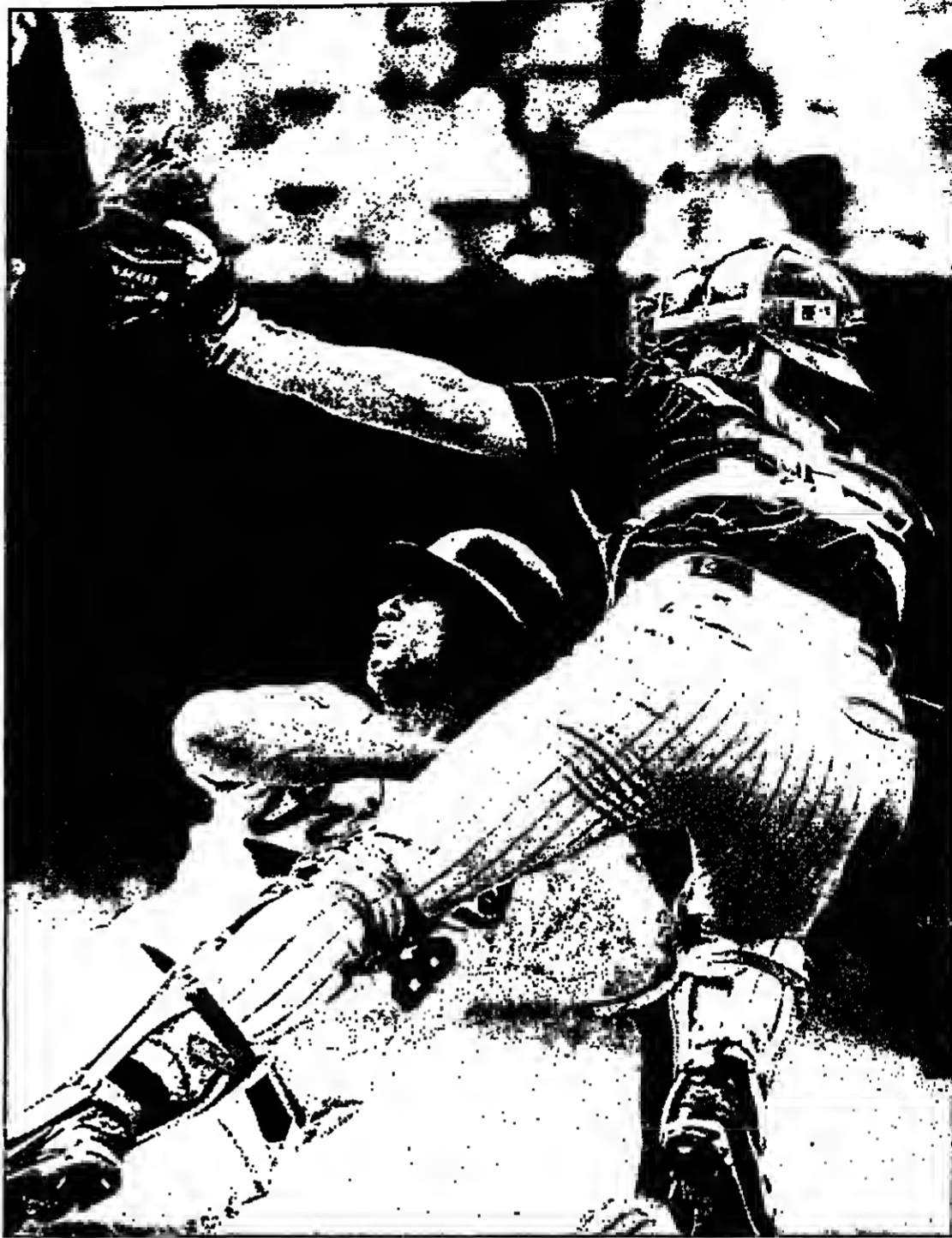
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U.S. dollar	3.7435	3.8039	-	-	3.7724
German mark	3.5028	3.5583	3.44	3.51	3.5310
Pound sterling	1.9227	1.9838	1.88	1.98	1.9364
French franc	5.8205	5.7112	5.52	5.90	5.6602
Japanese yen (100)	0.5704	0.5797	0.58	0.59	0.5748
Dutch florin	2.9553	3.0132	2.91	3.08	2.9860
Swiss franc	1.7075	1.7351	1.67	1.78	1.7198
Swedish krona	2.3391	2.3708	2.28	2.41	2.3511
Norwegian krona	0.4402	0.4474	0.43	0.46	0.4438
Denish krona	0.4811	0.4886	0.45	0.48	0.4838
Finnish mark	0.5047	0.5129	0.49	0.52	0.5088
Canadian dollar	0.8832	0.8932	0.83	0.87	0.8475
Australian dollar	0.9426	0.9506	0.87	0.90	0.8988
S. African rand	2.6210	2.6833	2.57	2.71	2.6414
Belgian franc (10)	0.7482	0.7603	0.67	0.78	0.7828
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9312	0.9463	0.91	0.98	0.9377
Italian lire (1000)	2.7324	2.7785	2.68	2.82	2.7518
Jordanian dinar	1.8986	2.0013	1.83	2.03	1.9851
Egyptian pound	4.8389	5.0188	4.87	5.21	4.5787
ECU	1.0000	1.0000	1.00	1.08	1.0948
Irish punt	3.7775	3.8385	-	-	3.8038
Spanish peseta (100)	5.1287	5.2125	5.04	5.29	5.1680
	2.2738	2.3103	2.23	2.35	2.2904

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Major League Statistics (Through Friday's Games)

Wilson homer leads Mariners past Yankees



CAL COMES HOME- Baltimore Orioles' Cal Ripken slides home safely as Minnesota Twins' catcher Damian Miller tries in vain to get him out.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM PITCHING table with columns for team, ERA, W, L, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, SV.

NATIONAL LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL PITCHING table with columns for player, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, W, L, ERA.

AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAM PITCHING table with columns for team, ERA, W, L, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, SV.

AMERICAN LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL PITCHING table with columns for player, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, W, L, ERA.

TEAM BATTING table with columns for team, AB, R, H, HR, RBI, Avg.

INDIVIDUAL BATTING table with columns for player, AB, R, H, HR, RBI, Avg.

SEATTLE (AP) - Nothing brings out the best in the Seattle Mariners and their fans like a visit from the New York Yankees.

Seattle's two-run homer in the seventh inning snapped a tie as the Mariners defeated the Yankees 5-3 to take two of three games in their weekend series.

Seattle improved its record against New York in the Kingdom Sunday to 17-4 since the 1995 playoffs.

It felt like this game was so crucial," said rookie pitcher Ken Cloude, who combined with two relievers on a six-hitter.

Jay Buhner also homered for Seattle, which won Friday night 9-5 before New York took a wild 10-8 decision in 11 innings on Saturday night.

With the score tied 3-3, David Wells (14-7) walked Andy Sheets to open the seventh and Mike Blowers sacrificed. Wilson then hit a 1-2 pitch over the wall in left for his 12th homer.

The 22-year-old Cloude gave up four hits and three runs in 6 1/2 innings.

Orioles 5, Twins 1 Scott Kaminienicki pitched seven strong innings as host Baltimore completed a three-game sweep and Baltimore moved 39 games over .500 (83-44) for the first time since August 1979.

Geronimo Berroa had a two-run shot and Brady Anderson and Rafael Palmeiro hit solo homers off LaTroy Hawkins (4-9) as the Orioles won their fifth straight.

Baltimore completed a three-game sweep and Baltimore moved 39 games over .500 (83-44) for the first time since August 1979.

Jose Mercedes pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shutout.

Jerome Burnitz, Mark Loretta and Jeff Cirillo each hit solo homers as Phil Garner became the winningest manager in Brewers history.

Mercedes pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shutout.

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This Date in Baseball August 26, 1959 - The first major league baseball game was televised as NBC-TV brought their cameras to Brooklyn's Ebbets Field for a doubleheader between the Reds and the Dodgers.

GRAPEVINE

Splitting hairs

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Justice Minister Tzahi Haneghi is looking more dapper these days - and it's not just his well-cut suits that are doing the trick.

SOME PEOPLE did a double take when they saw the advertisement for last Saturday night's appearance at the Western Wall by bejeweled blonde bombshell Rebetzen Esther Jungreis.

RABBI Moshe Levinger will be one of the keynote speakers at tomorrow's 30th anniversary celebrations of Jewish resettlement in Kiryat Arba and Hebron.

INTERVIEWING the prime minister's spokesman Shai Bazak in the wake of print media reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was less than happy about President Ezer Weizman's self-imposed role in political affairs.

THEY'RE still playing musical chairs in the broadcasting business. Eliezer Ya'ari, who anchors Channel 1's hard-hitting investigative news-feature program Second Look and occasionally hosts a morning program on Israel Radio.



Allen's prepared to marry Soon Yi - on his terms.

division, to try his hand in the world of public relations, has decided to call it quits and is casting his lot with Channel 2.

THE REPEATEDLY deferred visit to Israel by South African President Nelson Mandela has robbed Ben-Gurion University of the Negev of the opportunity to confer upon him an honorary doctorate in philosophy.

SOME PEOPLE never lose their clout. Feisty, outspoken Labor Party veteran and Kibbutz Givat Haim member Yitzhak Be-Aharon, who was Histadrut secretary general from 1969 to 1974.

THE long-time relationship between Woody Allen and Mia Farrow was, to put it mildly, a little strange. Stranger still is the 61-year-old Allen's relationship with his step-daughter Soon-Yi Previn, 26, the adopted daughter of Farrow and conductor Andre Previn.

Critics sober about new wine labels

By CURT ANDERSON

A little wine is fine. Numerous health studies have shown that moderate alcohol intake can even reduce the risk of heart disease in some people.

But the American wine industry's proposal to include new wording on bottle labels referring to the "health effects" of "moderate" wine drinking has spurred criticism by federal health officials that it might be a subtle way to encourage people to imbibe too much.

The Department of Health and Human Services is urging the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to delay approval of the labels, which would be permitted on both domestic and imported wines sold in the U.S.

"The proposal under consideration is a thinly disguised attempt to make an affirmative health claim," said Dr. John M. Eisenberg, acting assistant secretary for health.

"Anti-alcohol has tried to depict the wine industry as no different than cigarettes or heroin. We want to improve our image."

-US Wine Institute President John DeLuca

endorsement. We think there is a scientific balance struck in the guidelines, and we should be allowed to disseminate them.

DeLuca acknowledged there would be "some marketing benefits" to the labels, but he said the winners' true purpose is providing people with a way to obtain government-endorsed information that wine is not all bad.

"The anti-alcohol movement has tried to depict us as no different than cigarettes or heroin," he said. "We want to improve our image."

DeLuca maintained, however, that what winners really want is a "cultural development" that would make attitudes toward wine in the US more like those in much of Europe, where wine is regularly consumed with meals, even by young children.



Wine with every meal: Too much of a good thing?

"Our science is only catching up with the wisdom of other cultures," he said. "This is only an educational tool."

"They merely direct the consumer to a qualified source of information regarding the health effects of alcohol consumption," Magaw wrote. "Both statements are neutral. Neither statement characterizes health benefits or risks."

ATF's apparent willingness to endorse the labels has outraged some anti-alcohol and health groups, who want studies done to determine how consumers might perceive the new wording.

The labels might call to a consumer's mind positive publicity about the link between alcohol consumption and reduced heart disease, but not about alcohol's negative links to cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, car crashes and vio-

Home Front

The rocky road down the aisle



By Allison Kaplan Sommer

The stress was palpable even across international telephone lines. It was my friend Sharon calling from New York, where she was in the throes of a unique state which, if we are lucky, occurs only once in a lifetime.

Every year as Tu Be'av, the holiday of love, unleashes the onslaught of the local wedding season, the air is filled with the joys of matrimony. It is all supposed to sweep you along on a wave of nostalgia, dreaming of the beautiful day you got married and feeling a bit wistful that you will never be the center of attention the way you were as a bride.

Do I remember my wedding day fondly? Of course. Would I relive my wedding day if I could? Sure. But would I touch the six months leading up to my wedding with a 10-foot pole? No way.

I don't get it. I thought the wedding was supposed to be about me and my fiancé.

"I don't get it. I thought the wedding was supposed to be about me and my fiancé," she moaned. "But everyone else seems to think it's about them."

That's the rub of planning your wedding. You are making more choices in a shorter period of time than you have ever done, regarding an event that is as important to your relatives as it is to you.

I felt as if brokering Middle East peace must be more simple than coming up with a dress, a location, a rabbi, a menu, flowers, music, and photographers that could make everybody happy. Let's not kid ourselves: Much of the reason wedding decision-making is so stressful is that it all involves money - lots of money, and usually, the money is not all yours.

And nothing did. Not the parts of the hall the florist forgot to decorate, not the corny Fiddler on the Roof music that the pianist insisted on playing despite our explicit objections, not even the fact that my husband came down with the flu and was running an incredibly high fever during the ceremony.

attend it like a guest, blissfully unaware of any of the behind-the-scenes ministrations. You can enjoy it as an outsider, not an insider. Some people I know have done this. They live in Israel, decided to get married back in the US, and let their parents do all the planning.

But most of us, unfortunately fall somewhere in between. We plan most of it, don't pay for a lot of it, and therefore have to respect everyone's opinion. And weddings involve issues on which everyone has a strong opinion - money, religion, food, music, and expensive clothing.

If, during the process of planning a large wedding, you consider calling the whole thing off at least once, you're not abnormal. Another perfectly normal and common fantasy is just to forget the whole production and run off and elope.

But I'm glad my husband and I went through with it. The silly arguments over whether we must have a band with a saxophone that played Motown (we did), whether

the dinner would be a buffet or a sit-down (buffet), whether I would spend an unreasonable amount of money on a dress that made me look fabulous (I did) prepared us for years of joint decision-making.

The key to success at our wedding? On the eve of the event, we looked at each other and took a vow: No matter what went wrong on that day, we would be happy and have a wonderful time; we vowed not to let anything spoil our joy.

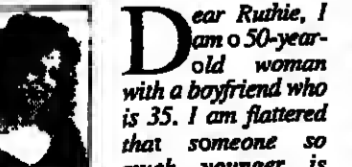
And nothing did. Not the parts of the hall the florist forgot to decorate, not the corny Fiddler on the Roof music that the pianist insisted on playing despite our explicit objections, not even the fact that my husband came down with the flu and was running an incredibly high fever during the ceremony.

So today, as I attend this year's batch of nuptials as a perfectly passive spectator, I remember the process of creating a wedding as being the last hurdle in a marathon obstacle course. After a great deal of effort, you make it through the event, panting, sweating, tired, but happy - you feel you accomplished something significant.

DEAR RUTHIE

Younger man, old guilt trip

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I am a 50-year-old woman with a boyfriend who is 35. I am flattered that someone so much younger is interested in me.

Dear Gigolo Joyful, Pimping the source of distress is usually the hardest part of solving a problem, since the source is often precisely the thing that our unconscious hides from

our conscious. In your case, self-awareness - the dialogue between your unconscious and your conscious - seems to be quite high. You are fortunate to be able to look the "monster" in the face before attempting to conquer it.

Dear Ruthie, My husband's sister has been taking antidepressant medication since she was in her early teens. Apparently this began after a series of what the family euphemistically refers to as "unpleasant episodes."

when she fails to take it she has additional "unpleasant episodes," which - on two occasions since I've been in the family - have led to her hospitalization.

Family Tied Somewhere in Israel Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

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IN TUNE

Oasis takes the crown

By DAVID BRINN

Oasis's Noel Gallagher doesn't have a lot to say, but he sure knows how to say it. The flamboyant British band's third full-length album is a tour de force of Gallagher's immense writing and production talents and his brother Liam's virtuosic vocal performances.

For those who considered Oasis's first two efforts nothing more than Beatles rip-offs by a bunch of uncultured louts, *Be Here Now* will unlikely change opinions. Because it is more of the same - only richer, deeper and more intense.

Be Here Now is one big, loud statement, from the purposeful first single "D'You Know What I Mean?" to the orchestrated nine-minute epic "All Around the World." The Gallaghers know how to pour old whiskey into a new bottle, and aside from the blatant "All the Young Dudes" tribute in the chorus of "Stand by Me," they manage to neatly dress the past up in new clothes.

- BE HERE NOW (NMC)
RISE OH ISRAEL Roots Afrika (NMC)
COIL Toad the Wet Sprocket (Import)

job has been to take over the Beatles' task of making the country (Britain) feel good. And these are definitely feel-good songs, songs that will sound perfect sung by thousands in stadiums. No doubt about it, Oasis will finally conquer America after a stand-offish courtship until now. There hasn't been a more impressive rock record released this year.

ROOTS Afrika is a local two-tone reggae band making waves in Tel Aviv with its inspired live performances. Its recorded debut *Rise Oh Israel* is a hounding high-spirited reggae fest, fueled by guitarist/writer Derrick Rose and singer Emanuel Yerdar, two transplanted Jamaicans.

Treading the familiar lyrical paths of Babylon, liberation and reward, the band adds nothing new to the reggae tradition but practices its craft with respect and admiration for that tradition. When it gets into a groove, watch for Bob Marley smiling behind your back.

BAD name, great band. Toad the Wet Sprocket is an American guitar quartet that has stood on the fringes of commercial success since its first record in 1989.

Too tasteful and level-headed to be alternative, and not quite distinctive enough to set it apart from countless other bands which stress songcraft, intelligent execution, and heart, Toad has maintained a not small cult following which has grown with each release. Graduates of the R.E.M. - Gin Blossoms school of "songs first - image second," the band and its new album, *Coil*, are ripe for a big breakout.

Featuring two guitarists/singers/writers in Glen Phillips and Todd Nichols, Toad is brimming with hooks, harmonics, and musical ideas. Nichols offers some amazing lines and accents on his guitar, and the frequent mix of acoustic and electric guitars propels the music forward.

So why aren't they stars? My theory is that the only thing that's holding the band back is its seriousness. There is a noticeable lack of light-heartedness, which may put listeners off at first or prevent them from checking out the band at all. Maybe it should change its name to U2, get some bad haircuts, and release an album called *Pop*.

The sound is so overwhelming that the simplistic lyrics (basically variations on everything will be OK, please don't leave me, let's make the world a better place) don't detract from the excitement, especially when sung with Liam's unique mix of Leno-esque clarity and Rotteneque sneer.

So few bands these days are larger than life, the way the Beatles and the Stones were in their heyday. Oasis, with its rock-star obnoxiousness, brash cockiness, and superlative songs to back them up, are the clear heirs to their thrones.

One early British review of the album said that Oasis's primary



Oasis's guiding light Noel Gallagher looks for inspiration in '78 recordings designed for old-fashioned gramophones.

Dance in real time

By HELEN KAYE

Real, gritty or glorious, seems to be the theme of the four companies making up this year's *Mahol Bemishkan* series, or *Dance at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center*.

The participating companies are Batsheva Dance, the Frankfurt Ballet, the Ballet Preljocaj, and Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre. Each will present a full-length modern dance work.

The series starts November 26 with the world premiere of a new, and as yet unnamed, work by Ohad Naharin for his Batsheva Dance Company (BD). Excerpts from the piece will premiere at the Netherlands Dance Theater (NDT) the preceding month, but Israel will get the entire banquet as part of BD's salute to the country's 50th birthday. The music - and it is an integral part of the piece - is performed by the innovative Orkater, a duo of Dutch musicians.

Local audiences know choreographer Angelin Preljocaj from the work he has done with BD. Last year he formed his own company and is making his TAPAC debut in January with a revised version of his 1990 *Romeo and Juliet* to Prokofiev's music with a running commentary of special sound effects. This take is set in a futuristic *Blade Runner*-type city, where the Capulets and the Montagues are locked in a desperate battle for survival.

William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet returns to TAPAC with *Eidos-Telos* which roughly means "the form-the goal." Forsythe's dazzlers are not story ballets. He is concerned with time and mortality, and he stretches his dancers to their physical limits.

Based in Adelaide, Tankard's company has been making waves in Europe with *Furioso*, built around the ritual of the male-female relationship. Tankard herself danced with Pina Bausch, but this is the company's debut in Israel.

Tickets to BD are about 35% cheaper than to the visiting dance companies. A season ticket (four) costs from NIS 472 to NIS 672. Single tickets range from NIS 70 to NIS 210. There are also two- and three-show package deals.

Gary Oldman wins big at Edinburgh

By JAMES FORRESTER

British actor Gary Oldman's first venture into movie-making won the top award on Sunday at the 51st Edinburgh film festival.

Oldman's *Nil by Mouth*, a view of working-class alcoholism and domestic violence in south London, won the Channel Four Director's Award, one of several British films honored there.

A close runner-up was a controversial film about a cystic fibrosis sufferer who blots out his agony through masochistic self-mutilation.

The awards were presented by Scottish actor Sean Connery and Michael Caine, both stars of the late John Huston's film *The Man Who Would Be King*, which was screened in the final event of the festival. Huston once described the Edinburgh event as "the only festival worth a damn."

Other winners included *Under the Skin*, a first feature by British director Carine Adler, about a young woman's response to her mother's death from cancer.

Adler's film won the Michael Powell Award for best new British film, beating off tough competition from 18 countries, including *Mrs. Brown*, in which Judi Dench plays Queen Victoria, and Scots comedian Billy Connolly her faithful servant John Brown, and *Wild*, in which Stephen Fry plays out the life of the 19th-century wit and dramatist Oscar Wilde.

The only foreign winner was *Womanscap 19.7.1901*, a documentary by Victor Kossakovsky about 50 boys and 51 girls born in Leningrad on the same day as he was.

Festival Director Lizzie Francke said that 1997 was the most successful year so far for the world's longest-running film festival.

Box office sales were up around 10 percent and screenings had, for the first time, used every movie theater in the Scottish capital.

(Reuters)

CLASSIC DISCS

Mustonen's must-hear collection

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Olli Mustoneo is undoubtedly one of the greatest young musicians performing today. I have become familiar with his artistry over the years and always was fascinated by his total commitment to whatever he was doing. I have heard him play in numerous chamber-music concerts and twice as a soloist with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

He recently made a successful debut with the IPO, playing the Grieg piano concerto.

Mustonen's recordings are as engaging as his performances. In both one realizes that he is not one of the numerous flashy pianists who is interested only in outer appearances and circus-like virtuosity. Mustonen is a thinking pianist who usually plays the standard repertoire in new, somewhat different ways than one is accustomed to. This is obvious in the concert hall and on disc too.

Mustonen's choice of recorded repertoire is revealing as well. His close to 10 discs do not yet include the obvious piano concerto warhorses in the repertoire. The only concerti disc he has at the moment is the one coupling the Grieg with Chopin's first (Decca 444 518-2), with Herbert Bloomstedt conducting the San Francisco Orchestra.

The Chopin is anything but the romantic concerto we are used to, it is much more profound and much more introverted and classic in style, as well as being most compelling. The Grieg is devoid of flashy romanticism as well. Rather Mustonen delves deep into the music and presents it as if we have never heard it before.

Mustonen is thinking throughout; he does not do things differently for the sake of being different. He does whatever he does because he simply believes in it.

Actually there is one more orchestral disc to Mustonen's credit. In it he couples Bach's D major keyboard concerto (an arrangement of the composer's violin concerto in E), which he conducts from the keyboard, with Beethoven's D major piano concerto, that is actually the piano arrangement of the violin concerto.



Pianist Olli Mustonen shies away from commercialism.

swift playing and floating romantic lyricism (Decca 443 118-2).

One of the most engaging Mustonen discs is the one featuring Shostakovich's second piano trio (with Joshua Bell and Steven Isserlis), which is simply mesmerizing in the way they play it.

Also on the disk is Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Times*, in which the three are joined by clarinetist Steven Collins (Decca 452 899-2).

Both works are performed with utter sincerity, devotion and intensity.

In the Shostakovich the familiar heaviness and doom are replaced with something that has much more space to breathe without harming the power of the piece, while the Messiaen is as beguiling in its overt dramatic playing.

Mustonen joins Bell in a disc of three works for piano and violin by Prokofiev. They play the two sonatas and the five melodies with passion, devotion, expansive sound and the total commitment to the music expected from them (Decca 440 926-2).

Mustonen's solo discs are also not that obvious in their choice

of repertoire. But the one featuring the Opus 34 preludes by Shostakovich and the Opus 31 preludes by Alkan suggest that he shies away conscientiously from pure commercialism (Decca 433 055-2). His Beethoven disc with dances, bagatelles and variations features little-known Beethoven masterpieces performed in a very romantic and sweeping way (Decca 452 206-2).

Pictures at an Exhibition (Decca 436 255-2) is one of his best albums, a mesmerizing contemplative affair which is totally remote from the customary showy reading of this work, a performance devoid of sheer sound, a performance that is much more than beauty of tone and large sound.

It is a performance that suggests that this opus has much more in it than actually meets the eye.

The disc also includes a touching performance of Tchaikovsky's *Children's Album* and Balakirev's *Islouey* played in a most contemplative way.

All this is Mustonen the performer. But there is also Mustonen the composer, who is as engaging if not more so.

The disk of his compositions (Finlandia 4509-9560-2) is one of the most exciting collections of music I have heard in a long time. It features nine works ranging in style and form, most solo piano works and one very captivating and touching fantasy for piano and orchestra.

Listening to this disc, one can grasp many things about Mustonen the performer.

Like the pianist in him, the composer in Mustonen is searching for new way to express himself, yet in contrast to the pianist, the composer is clearly influenced by past masters, from Bach onwards, playing homage to them and using their music as a point of departure to continue in his own personal way. It is a disc no music lover can afford to miss. It's a real joy, a collection of perfect gems.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

Table with columns: WEEK, CHARTS, ARTIST, TITLE. Lists top-selling albums for the week ending August 18, 1997.

Pennies from Heaven advertisement for The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund, featuring a drawing of a child and text about helping needy kids.

Mevasseret Zion squatters evicted

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN, JOE CHARLAFF and Nim

Police and border police yesterday removed homeless families who had occupied 114 apartments at the Mevasseret Zion absorption center near Jerusalem, arresting 12 people in the process.

After being briefed Sunday night, approximately 1,000 policemen and border policemen gathered at Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium before proceeding to Mevasseret Zion.

The highly organized operation began at about 9:30 in the morning, when some of the families were still sleeping, and many of the men had already left for work.

Bosmat Aharjel, 19, a mother of a week-old baby and whose husband was in hospital, said the police entered while she was sleeping and broke her television set. When her mother-in-law tried to make her some coffee, she found the police had already turned off the gas.

Dudu Meru, 32, said: "We're going directly from the apartments to the sidewalks. We broke in here because we have no place else to go, so we're putting our stuff right here on the sidewalk. Then we plan to break into schools that have been prepared for the opening of the school year, so that at least we have a roof over our heads."

He added: "I woke up and heard police cars, helicopters, horses and loud walkie-talkies.

We got very scared. The police broke down the door without knocking. The last time they came, they announced it on a loudspeaker. This time they came with horses and knocked the doors down, grabbed us and took us outside by force."

Many of the squatters complained that police did not even give them time to get dressed, and forcibly removed them. Many of the women and children were in nightgowns or pajamas.

A number managed to remove their possessions before the police arrived. Some took their belongings to the homes of their parents who live nearby, while others were still on the street.

The homeless originally took over the apartments in mid-June and were evicted on July 3, but later returned to the center.

A police spokesman said no violence was encountered and the squatters were being brought in to the local police station for questioning.

An official at the Mevasseret Zion local council said the council was not involved in the evacuation, and had been trying to find a solution for the problem.

A Jewish Agency spokesman noted that the High Court of Justice is to hear a petition today from the agency about the failure to evacuate the squatters.

The spokesman said that while the agency is sympathetic with the plight of the homeless, their situation could not be resolved by breaking into places intended for new immigrants.



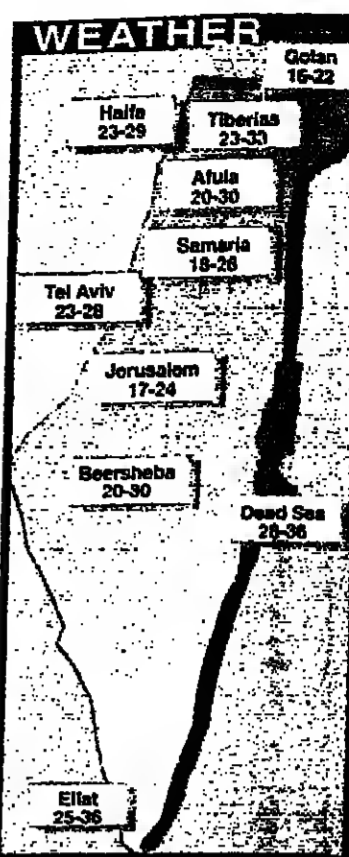
Border policemen cut the window bars of an apartment occupied by squatters in Mevasseret Zion yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

"The solving of the nation's social problems cannot come at the expense of the absorption of

immigrants, who are an important element in the strength of Israel," the spokesman said.

He said many of the squatters were not homeless at all. The spokesman praised the police

efforts, but added that the Jewish Agency was sorry no fitting solution had been found for the homeless among the squatters, either by the local council or other bodies.



Forecast: Partly cloudy. Drop in temperatures. Unseasonably cool.

Amsterdam	19	26	28	22	cloudy
Barin	18	24	31	26	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	16	21	26	21	clear
Chico	23	27	26	25	partly cloudy
Chicago	18	21	26	21	clear
Copenhagen	17	20	24	19	cloudy
Fairfax	17	20	24	19	cloudy
Geneva	17	20	24	19	cloudy
Helsinki	18	24	21	20	clear
Hong Kong	28	29	30	26	cloudy
Jakarta	26	29	31	27	clear
Laban	18	24	31	26	partly cloudy
London	18	24	27	22	rain
Los Angeles	20	28	31	28	clear
Madrid	18	24	27	22	rain
Moscow	13	18	24	18	clear
Munich	14	19	24	19	clear
New York	21	27	27	22	partly cloudy
Rome	18	24	27	22	cloudy
Stockholm	17	20	24	19	clear
Sydney	17	20	24	19	clear
Tokyo	24	27	27	22	cloudy
Toronto	17	20	24	19	clear
Varna	17	20	24	19	clear
Zurich	17	20	24	19	clear

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Winning cards

In yesterday's first Chance drawing (275/97), the winning cards were the jack of spades, the nine of hearts, the seven of diamonds and the queen of clubs. In the second drawing (276/97), the winning cards were the nine of spades, the queen of hearts, the nine of diamonds and the jack of clubs.

NEWSLINE

with Barbara Epstein

Barbara Epstein is director of Community Advocacy/Genesis, a grassroots group that lobbies for social rights and helps people learn of and access entitlements.

Who is entitled to housing assistance?

Every young couple is entitled to a government-supported mortgage. The amount, however, is continuously updated, and now stands at around NIS 70,000. Most low-income families are not able to use this mortgage to buy an apartment, because they don't have additional money of their own, or help from parents to take out an additional mortgage. Because of this, there are a number of supplementary programs that help, depending on the number of points a family accrues. Points are awarded on the basis of the number of children that the couple's parents had, the number of years the family has gone without housing, and how many children are in the family. This is often a Catch-22 situation - the worse the condition you are in, the more help you are entitled to, and so the most mortgage assistance is offered to those who can least afford to take advantage of it.

There is also a very limited supply of public housing for people with very low incomes, and extremely low-rent housing for families with three or more children who earn less than NIS 3,400 shekels a month. They have to be a family or a single parent with three or more children. So as you can see, there are a lot of people who fall between the cracks. The working poor, earning the minimum wage, have no way of getting an apartment.

What about renting? The Israeli housing market is based on ownership; there is no real rental market. Private housing rentals are rare, the market is very tight and prices are very high. Government rental subsidies, limited to three years, are given to some of the poor, on the premise that at the end of that period, a family will have saved enough to buy a flat. But rents are so high that even with the subsidy there is no way a poor family can save enough for a down payment.

There were media reports that the Mevasseret squatters had nice cars and cellular phones. Some people have implied that they are simply spoiled, insisting on living in the expensive Jerusalem area instead of moving somewhere else.

Just because you can't afford an apartment doesn't mean you can't afford to buy a car. After all, you still need to get to work, to get your children around. As for cellular phones, people without a permanent place to live have to have cellular phones so that people can reach them. I've also heard people claim that it is less costly to keep a cellular phone than a regular line.

As for geography, when you are talking about members of the working poor, extended family support is vital. They often depend on their family for child care, for Shabbat meals, for other kinds of help. It is much easier for a skilled professional to go live in Dimona for a couple of years. A teacher, for example, can go live in the periphery and teach, and then come back to the center of the country once he or she has saved some money. But what are non-professional, non-skilled workers going to do once they've moved to a cheap apartment in Dimona? How many delivery men, how many nannies can find work in Dimona? For most, unless there is a factory job waiting, such a move would simply mean unemployment.

Allison Kaplan Sommer

British attack victim praises police

Charlotte Gibb, the British hitchhiker who was shot and wounded two weeks ago during an attack in which her boyfriend, Jeffrey Hunter, was killed sent a letter of appreciation yesterday to Negev District police commending them for solving the crime.

Police on Friday arrested Daniel Okev, 45, of Even Yehuda, a major in the IDF reserves, who has reportedly confessed to killing Hunter, 22, and wounding Gibb, 20 after giving them a ride north of Eilat on August 13.

"I express my heartfelt appreciation for the work put in by the commander of the district and the team of investigators in order to find the person who shot me and my friend," Gibb wrote. "I very much appreciate what you did and must point out that I did not think that you would catch him so quickly."

"I can only explain this by your professionalism. My words are insufficient to express my thanks to you. When I heard the news about the suspect's capture, this was a great relief for me and it will help me get on in life knowing that you have everything under control."

Gibb wrote further that she had tried to help the investigators as much as she could in order to catch the killer. "I know that he didn't just decide to do what he did [on the spur of the moment]. I'm sure of it," she said. (Tm)